

Message Text

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S E C R E T GENEVA 9944

NODIS

FOR AMB SCHAUFLE FROM WISNER

DEPT PASS LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK
SUBJECT: RHODESIA CONFERENCE: THE RHODESIANS THREATEN NKOMO

REF: GENEVA 9943

1. A WORRIED EDWARD NKHLOVU ASKED URGENTLY TO SEE ME ON
DECEMBER 15 ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM NKOMO.

2. NDHLOVU SAID THAT DEREK ROBINSON, THE RHODESIAN
CHIEF OF SECURITY IN GENEVA, CAME TO NKOMO'S ROOM AT
THE INTERNCONTINENTAL HOTEL YESTERDAY EVENING ACCOMPANIED
BY ANOTHER MAN WITHOUT APPOINTMENT (ROBINSON HAS KNOWN
KNOMO FOR YEARS AND THE TWO MEN CONSIDER THEMSELVES
FRIENDS). ROBINSON READ FROM A PIECE OF PAPER WHICH
APPEARED TO BE A NEWSPAPER CLIPPING AND ACCUSED NKOMO
OF BEING A TERRORIST. HE WARNED NKOMO NOT TO RETURN TO
RHODESIA AND SAID IF HE DID "YOU WILL BE KILLED"
BECAUSE OF NKOMO'S ASSOCIATIONS WITH THE TERRORIST
MOVEMENT. NKOMO WAS OUTRAGED AND TOLD ROBINSON HE
KNEW FULL WELL THAT ZAPU HAD BEEN FIGHTING FOR MANY
YEARS. WHEN HE WAS DETAINED IN 1964 THE RHODESIANS
KNOW HE WAS PRESIDENT OF ZAPU AND WERE AWARE THAT
WHEN HE WAS RELEASED IN 1974 HE WAS STILL PRESIDENT OF
ZAPU. THERE WAS NOTHING NEW IN HIS ASSOCIATION
WITH THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS. NKOMO TOLD ROBINSON

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"I AM GOING HOME AND YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT TO,"

BUT HE TOLD ROBINSON THAT HE WOULD EXPOSE THE RHODESIAN THREATS IN PUBLIC.

3. ACCORDING TO NDHLOVU, ROBINSON ASKED THAT NKOMO NOT MAKE PUBLIC REFERENCE TO HIS CALL. NKOMO DEMANDED AN APOLOGY WHICH ROBINSON GAVE. IF HE DECIDED TO RETURN TO RHODESIA, ROBINSON SAID, THERE MUST BE NO MASS GATHERINGS. NKOMO TOLD ROBINSON THAT IT WAS ROBINSON'S JOB TO PROTECT HIM AND ROBINSON REPLIED HE COULD ONLY DO SO IF IT WERE POSSIBLE.

4. JOSEPH MSIKA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF NKOMO'S ANC FACTION, ARRIVED IN GENEVA LAST NIGHT FROM RHODESIA AND TOLD NKOMO HE HAD RELIABLE REPORTS THAT THE RHODESIANS ARE PLANNING TO PLANT BOMBS IN NKOMO'S HOUSE IN BULAWAYO. NKOMO HAS INFORMED THE MI-6 LIAISON OFFICER AND ASKED THAT WE BE MADE AWARE OF THE THREATS.

5. NKOMO SUSPECTS THE RHODESIANS WANT TO KEEP HIM OUT OF RHODESIA. IF HE RETURNS, WHICH IS HIS INTENTION, AND IS NOT ALLOWED TO HOLD PUBLIC GATHERINGS, HE WILL ASSUME THAT THE RHODESIANS ARE TRYING TO PROMOTE MUZOREWA.

6. NKOMO LEAVES FOR LONDON TODAY. ON SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 18, HE DEPARTS FOR JOHANNESBURG AND WILL SPEND THE NIGHT AT JAN SMUTS AIRPORT. HE PROCEEDS TO SALISBURY ON SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 19 AND WILL DECIDE THERE WHETHER TO GO TO BULAWAYO.

7. COMMENT: NDHLOVU'S REPORT CONFIRMS GAYLARD'S STATEMENT THAT THE RHODESIANS HAVE APPROACHED NKOMO (REFTEL). CATTO

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